

Abstract of the Disclosure

Peptides are proposed with antigenic or immunogenic determinants, which result from autoantibodies in the body fluids of patients, who are suffering from autoimmune diseases, in particular diseases of the rheumatic group as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis or systemic sclerosis. In the case of the peptides it is preferably a question of the C terminus of bovine histone H1 with the sequence section 187 - 211 or corresponding human histone-H1-peptides of the sub-types H1.1, H1.2, H1.3, H1.4, H1.5 and H1.2 and the N termini of histone H2B with the sequence sections 1- 35 and 36 - 76, which are capable of cross reactions with the autoantibodies (anti-histone-antibodies). The invention furthermore provides ways of forming monoclonal antibodies and antiidiotypical antibodies, which are directed against autoantibodies. The diagnosis of autoimmune diseases is possible in accordance with the invention with a high degree of certainty and the monoclonal antibodies directed against the autoantibodies are suitable for the production of medicaments for the therapy of said diseases.

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